

Letter from the President



John Goerlich

Did you ever think of a loved one slowly losing his or her sight and going blind . . . the feeling of frustration . . . facing a sightless life . . . being dependent upon relatives and friends to go out of the house for a breath of fresh air . . . eventually sitting in a darkened room . . . listening to a radio?

If you enjoy good sight, thank your God—and help us help someone less fortunate.

One way many of you can help is by suggesting that instead of flowers at a funeral, a contribution be made to us. Generally this is done by a notice in the newspaper in the obituary section. And don't forget us in your Will.

Money is something a Society like this always needs, and for your own good read the enclosed brochure on glaucoma. Glaucoma can be arrested if simple procedures are followed. But, sure as shooting, it does blind you if neglected!

John Goerlich
President
Toledo Society for the Blind

Gifts to the Society

Memorials

Society memorials may be made in any amount desired. Each will be acknowledged as directed and kept on permanent public record at the Society. Contributions also may be made in commemoration of joyous happenings to relatives and friends.

Among the gifts received from Jan. 1 to Mar. 30, 1972 are:

In memory of Elizabeth Miller—Donor Mrs. George E. Pankratz.

In memory of Betty Ford—Donor Phi-Sigma-Tau sorority

In memory of Wilma Downing, Toledo Society for the Blind, Bookkeeper, Industrial Department—Mr. & Mrs. Carl D. Evans, Mrs. E. M. Chapman, Roy Miller, Wanda Suchala, The Henrys, Russell & Dorothy Stump, I. E. Peters, Harold & Louise Miller, Raoul Bernardon, Mrs. James L. Ross Sr. & family, Mr. & Mrs. H. Schimmel, Miss Joyce Schimmel, and Phyllis Mahar, Staff and Sheltered Workshop Clients.

In memory of Gladys Coleman—Donor Myron H. Buehrer, Marion Hasel, Marion Layman, Donald Lusher, Lester Miller, Mrs. Blanche Huss, The Merrill Klatt family, The 20th Century Club, Louise Levee & family, Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Reeder, Pete & Marge Kroetz, Mrs. Lovell Weiland, Allan Brough & family, Jean Irvine & family, Harold & Grace Hutchison, Kathryn Farwell, Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Windisch, Mrs. Luella Brough, JoAnn & Bill Capoul & family, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Wagner, Mr. & Mrs. W. Marshall, Mr. & Mrs. Al Marshall, Mr. & Mrs. R. Miller, Alma Buck, Ella Diefenthaler, The Lester Huss family, Marian Skilliter, Mary M. Robinson, H.W. Bower Trucking, Bob & Ethel Niehans, Mr. & Mrs. James Chambers, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Cole & family, Mrs. Vera Huss, and Mrs. Ivy Crossman.

In memory of Minte Strohm—Donor Mrs. Mary Grocott and Mrs. Donald Walters.

Sign Posts *(Continued)*

The tickets will be at the Society, and any blind person may use them. He or she (we have blind women baseball fans, too) should call the Society. If the tickets have not already been reserved, the applicant may come and get them.

No one person can use the tickets continuously. We must share them with others. Only 24 hours notice is all that the Society requests.

REMEMBER: You may take a sighted guide with you and we hope he or she will provide transportation.

It was sheer pleasure for the blind, their children, and sighted guides to attend the Shrine Circus at the Sports Arena early in April. Most of us gathered at the Society at 3 p.m. and lustily proclaimed our enthusiasm.

Volunteers helped provide the transportation, and relatives came and took them home. Many, many of our visually handicapped preferred to go with their families—which we like.

Free gifts and soft drinks were provided by the Shriners.

By dialing 242-5181 on Thursdays and Fridays 5:30 p.m. to 7 a.m., visually handicapped and others may hear "Good Buys" in the major grocery stores for Fridays and Saturdays.

These "buys" are selected by Mrs. Edna Thompson who has been purchasing groceries and meats for the cafeteria for 10 years, and Lyle Kirk, former director.

Stores selected are ones in the neighborhood where most blind people live. They do not include coupon or stamp items, since blind persons would have difficulty clipping coupons from newspapers.

"White Cane Tours," specializing in travels especially designed for the blind, is offering trips to many people long denied this privilege. The tours are promoted by Evergreen Travel Service in Lynnwood, Wash. and include trips to Jamaica, Europe, Hawaii, and the Orient for 1972.

Groups must be composed of at least 15 people.

Evergreen provides two specially trained escorts for each tour, and blind travelers are invited to bring sighted friends or relatives.

For local information on these tours, call the Society at 243-8239.

Out with the tide

Within one year, the Society has lost two of its staunchest supporters.

Carl Weissenberger of Weissenberger Chevrolet became a downtown Lions Club member in 1932. Very soon thereafter, he became interested in the principal charity of the Lions Club, the Toledo Society for the Blind.

In 1934, Carl was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Society and had served continually for 37 years.

He seldom missed a Trustee meeting and contributed financially to the Blind programs.

At Carl's death, his family designated the Society as one of the agencies to which contributions should be made in lieu of flowers. Carl died March 26, 1972.

When the Toledo Society for the Blind was organized in 1924, Holt Bullock, Lions Club member and owner of the Bullock Plumbing Supply Company was elected to the Board of Trustees.

Holt missed only one or two meetings during almost 50 years, and was active in the Lions Christmas Parties for the blind.

In 1971 when his health began to fail, Holt asked to be removed from the Board of Trustees, as he could no longer attend meetings.

When Holt passed away on Dec. 10, 1971, his family requested to his friends that instead of flowers, any memorials be sent to the Toledo Society for the Blind.

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

Vol. 9 No. 1—May, 1972

1819 Canton Avenue

Telephone 243-8239

Do you know of any others?

Sheltered workshop takes on new assembly project

Last October, the sheltered workshop began assembling and packaging 75,000 kits of "Sun Prints," a toy that makes pictures without a camera.

The kit is a product of Owens-Illinois, and contains several small articles of various shapes. If you take one of them, put it on one of the Sun Print plates, and expose it to light—indoors or out—a picture will appear.

Because the product was a new one for the Society, initial progress in packaging was rather slow. Several machines had to be procured; a stock had to be stored and accumulated.

But now production is going well, with about 1,000 units packaged and assembled daily. There are several operations involved in packaging this product, and nine legally blind persons work on its assembly.

Ray Myers, legally blind supervisor who serves on a part-time basis, said, "This is one of the best jobs we have had at the Society—no metal, no oil, everything is clean."

"I wish we could have several jobs like this. As you know, many blind people cannot work on some of the jobs we now have."

"Will you try and get us some more like this?" Mrs. Esther Tracey, one of the workers in this department asked.

"I like this job. There are nine of us on it, and we have learned a great deal about each other working together."

"I hope we continue to produce Sun Prints for a long time," she said.

Sun Prints, by the way, is advertised on national television on such children's programs as "The Wizard" on Saturdays.

If you are aware of any company or organization who would



Sun Prints, a toy now being packaged in our sheltered workshop, makes a picture without a camera.



"Will you try to get us some more jobs like this?" asked Esther Tracey, who works on the Sun Prints assembly operation.

be interested in having its products assembled and/or packaged in our sheltered workshop, please contact the Society at 243-8239.

An early reminder about your 1972 holiday cards

We want to thank everyone who complimented the exceptionally beautiful selection of holiday cards available from the Society last year. The value of this program is evidenced by the growing number of orders we received which in turn enable the Society to continue its many "extracurricular" programs not provided for by the United Appeal Funds. Among these are summer camp, eye screening for the young, the community medical eye clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, family nights, help for the blind bowlers, and the annual visit from Santa with gifts for our blind children.

For the holidays this year, we feel the Society's card selection is the finest yet. If you would like to receive samples of these lovely cards, merely fill in the enclosed card and drop it in the mail.

If you choose to order the cards, remember you will be neither charged nor billed for them. Instead we ask that you make a contribution to the Society. Anything over the amount you normally pay for your holiday cards is tax deductible.

If you wish, the cards may also be imprinted with your name, but please allow \$3.00 for this extra service.

New solutions being found for blind housing problems

The Toledo Society for the Blind became aware of the growing housing shortage in the Toledo area many years ago.

However, the problem of housing as related to the visually handicapped has been of even greater magnitude. This has been indicated through the Social Service Department of the Toledo Society for the Blind, whose primary concern is the social rehabilitation of blind individuals.

The blind person has a more difficult experience in securing adequate housing for several reasons.

Landlords fear that blind tenants would be incapable of independent living. The primary concern is the potential risk of personal injuries and fires, and the inability to care for residences properly due to lack of sight.

Related to this is the fact that it is impossible for many blind persons to pay high rent.

Because of the general lack of employment opportunity, the majority of blind persons must rely on financial assistance programs.

Slum areas

This imposes immediate restrictions, forcing the blind person into slum areas where housing is sub-standard.

Although these problems have been prevalent in our community, we are now beginning to witness a change. We view with gratification public housing structures such as Vistula Manor, which accommodates four of our blind individuals, and the Parkwood Apartments, where six blind persons live and enjoy comfortable and convenient living.

More recently, through Catholic housing units, blind persons have been able to reside in safety and comfort at Regina Manor on Manhattan and Madonna Homes on Huron, where several blind ladies now live.

Madonna Homes was indeed the answer for one of our blind ladies, Laura Rausch, who was accepted for residency there on Feb. 9.

Laura is not one of our elderly ladies, but a young 41-year-old woman who had been living in a large apartment building near downtown Toledo, where she leased a one-room apartment with bath and kitchen.

Constant fear

During this period, she lived in a constant state of fear, since she was robbed on several occasions necessitating police intervention.

As the days went by, Laura found herself increasingly restless as her wakeful nights were spent in loneliness and darkness.

Her mind and keen sense of hearing dwelled on the night sounds, preparing her for any encroachment or danger that

might enter her tiny domain.

Since Laura is employed at the Toledo Society for the Blind, her work day normally begins at 6 a.m., when she rises to prepare for seven hours of work on an assembly line.

However, during the long months of searching for better



Laura Rausch demonstrates the use of some facilities in the kitchen of her new apartment in Madonna Homes.

housing, plus the death of her father, and lack of sleep, Laura's health began to show telltale signs of impending emotional disaster.

Restless, nervous

She became restless and nervous, resulting in inability to eat or sleep. The Toledo Society for the Blind found it necessary to remove and store special appliances, jewelry, and clothing from her apartment, for fear of its being stolen.

On Feb. 2, illness struck due to exhaustion, and Laura was rushed to the hospital suffering from hypertension.

Following this incident she was advised to return to her mother's home in Fostoria, Ohio for a rest. She left Toledo weary and sad, but still hopeful that the days ahead would be brighter.

On Feb. 8 Laura, was notified that she was scheduled for an appointment at Madonna Homes. Afraid to believe that plans would materialize, she nevertheless prepared for one of the most important interviews of her life.

Safety, security, dignity

As Madonna Homes welcomed her to their household, Laura—and all of us that know her—thanked God for ending a tragic series of events for a lonely blind woman, who now lives in safety and security and dignity.

We need more room, so no more chair caning

Chair caning was one of the first crafts the blind were taught.

Regular, delaware, log cabin, rush, and pressed were the stock occupations, along with rug weaving, basket making, and piano tuning.

Until 1925, most blind people were engaged in these hand-crafts.

But about this time, industry was finding use for skilled blind craftsmen and the National Industries for the Blind was born. In addition to textiles, broom and mop making were made part of the Skill Craft Arts.

Gradually rug weaving and basket making were dropped.

In Toledo, we found that newly blinded persons did not want to learn chair caning because the same amount of time spent in the Sheltered Workshop could earn three-to-four times as much as one could make in chair caning.

So on Feb. 9, 1972, the Operation Committee, faced with finding space for a new Placement Program, decided to eliminate the caning program and use the space for office purposes.

Society gets new volunteer for Friendly Visiting program

One of the greatest areas of volunteer service at the Toledo Society for the Blind is the Friendly Visiting program.

With over 1,200 legally blind in our community and 60 percent or more classified as elderly, the need for such a program is of vital importance.

The scope of service rendered is broad, ranging from writing letters to providing transportation, doing reading, giving assistance in personal shopping, and many times just visiting. These services and many more enter into the Friendly Visiting program.

Fortunately, we have seven or eight dedicated volunteers who serve the Society in this capacity. Our newest agency volunteer is Kay Dix who gives at least one day a week to visiting the blind.

Kay's service began when she was asked to assist a young blind woman in earning her B.A. degree from the University of Toledo last June.

Live reading

She did many hours of live reading, as well as long periods on tape.

Being a rather versatile person, Kay has assisted blind



Kay Dix's expertise at the organ enabled her to help a blind lady "rediscover" playing. Kay is our newest volunteer in the Friendly Visiting program.

persons in such ways as repairing televisions, instructing individuals in the use of script guides for writing, and doing scriptural reading for others.

We did not know at first that our "Mrs. Dix" was also an accomplished musician, but we soon found out.

Despondent

When asked if she would have time to visit just one more blind lady who had become despondent over a greater loss of vision in the past year, Kay responded enthusiastically.

Upon visiting the home, Kay observed that the lady had an organ. She was no longer able to play however, due to her deteriorating eyesight which prevented her from reading the music.

The problem was readily solved as Kay devised a method in which she reads the notes onto a tape. The person can then practice from this and ultimately memorize the music. The response of this particular lady was so great that she began to show a new lease on life.

The request for these personal services cannot be over-emphasized. The need is all too great as one listens to the cries of the lonely and the depressed.

Time hangs heavily

When time hangs heavily for many individuals, it is also a premium to others who are too busy to share with those in need. But not so for Kay Dix, who gives priority to her husband Donald, an active Lions Club member.

Although the Dixes have no children of their own, they decided early in their lives together to open their arms to others in need of personal services.

They are no strangers to Toledo and their footsteps are known as they move in friendship to strengthen the lives of

the blind, the crippled, and the ill.

Aside from her volunteer services Kay has worked most of her life in law offices performing the duties of a legal secretary.

She has devoted many hours to the Little Sisters of the Poor, and her husband gives freely of his time through the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The Society and the blind individuals who are served are indeed grateful to Kay Dix. The Society needs at least 25 more volunteers in its Friendly Visiting program. Call Mrs. Jane Shuman our social worker at 243-8239, for any additional information.

Kirk resigns as Society director; Norwood voted to succeed him

At their October meeting, the Society's Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Society Director Lyle O. Kirk, and elected Donald G. Norwood to succeed him.

Mr. Kirk, who had been the Society's director since January, 1958 and its associate director six months before, will continue to serve the Society as a trustee and staff counselor.

Since he came to the Toledo Society for the Blind, Mr. Kirk has seen six building additions to the Society's facilities.

One of these was the development of a sheltered workshop, providing employment for any of the city's legally blind people, in addition to employing several mentally retarded clients from the Toledo Mental Health Center.

The most recent building improvement was the remodeling of the Society's lower floor into a modern Rehabilitation Center.

Mr. Kirk's career in social work began when he gave up the practice of law to become associate director of the Cleveland Society for the Blind. He was also the first director of the Toledo Goodwill Industries.

His career had been acclaimed by hundreds of Toledo citizens who have served as involved trustees of both the Society and Goodwill.

Donald G. Norwood, Mr. Kirk's successor, has served as office and business manager of the Society since 1963, and is well acquainted with our programs.

He was born in Elkhart, Ind., and he and his wife Gloria have two children—Carolyn, who is completing a course in nursing at Flower Hospital, and Stephen, who is a student at the University of Toledo.

Our new director attended Toledo Burroughs elementary school, Libbey High School, and the University of Toledo. He is also a graduate of the Toledo Secretarial School.

His work experience includes positions at A&P Food Stores and the Toledo Pipe Threading Company. Mr. Norwood has also served as secretary of the Harbor Light Masonic Lodge for several years. The family are members of Ottawa River Methodist Church.

We wish both Mr. Kirk and Mr. Norwood continued success in their new duties.

Sign Posts

Visually handicapped persons, who like to attend and "see" the Toledo Mud Hens play baseball this year will get the opportunity.

John Goerlich, president of the Society, has provided us with a box of six seats at the Lucas County Recreation Center. These seats are good for all Toledo home games. They're located in the grandstand immediately behind the catcher's box, where every call by the umpire can be heard, and blind baseball fans can enjoy themselves to the utmost.

We don't know of any sport that blind people enjoy as much as baseball, and this year we will have six seats available for all games.

(Continued on next page)



Madonna Homes on Huron Street is an attractive, modern building especially designed for the elderly and physically handicapped.